

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 021464

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1109 ACTION SECSTATE 28 JAN

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 1109

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MARR SA EG US

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 20008 (RPTG JIDDA 0607), (B) CAIRO 0975

1. REFTTEL A SEEMS TO HAVE CROSSED REPORT ON MY MEETING WITH VP MOBAREK (REF B). IT APPEARS THAT MOBAREK WAS AT LEAST PARTLY RIGHT WHEN HE INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT PROGRAM HAD ALREADY BEEN STOPPED FOLLOWING VISIT OF EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER ABDEL MUNIM TO DHAHRAN ON JANUARY 20.

2. IN MY PRESENTATION TO MOBAREK, I DID NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FLYING AND GROUND TRAINEES AND SPOKE OF ALL EGYPTIANS CURRENTLY IN SAUDI F-5 TRAINING

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PROGRAM. NOR DID MOBAREK MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN

FLYING AND GROUND PERSONNEL. AS REPORTED REF B, MOBAREK CALLED GENERAL ABDEL MUNIM AT MY REQUEST AND INITIALLY RESPONDED IN MONOSYLLABLES TO WHAT HE WAS TOLD HAD BEEN DONE DURING THE GENERAL'S VISIT TO DHAHRAN. I THEN HEARD HIM GIVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT PROGRAM SHOULD BE SUSPENDED UNTIL APRIL. HE AGAIN DID NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PILOT AND GROUND PERSONNEL. HOPEFULLY, MOBAREK'S INSTRUCTIONS NOW COVER BOTH.

3. AT LAST REPORT, IT WAS GOE INTENTION TO KEEP THE EGYPTIANS TRAINEES IN SAUDI ARABIA. MOBAREK HAD THE IDEA OF SENDING THEM AROUND THE COUNTRY FOR A MONTH OR SO, BUT I SUSPECT DETAILS OF WHAT THEY ARE TO DO WILL BE LEFT TO BE WORKED OUT WITH RSAF COMMANDERS.

4. COMMENT: PREDICTABLY, MOBAREK ADVISED OTHER SENIOR EGYPTIANS -- THE PRESIDENT PROBABLY AMONG THEM -- OF MY APPROACH. WHILE WE HAVE NOT HEARD SADAT'S REACTION, WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORT GAMASY IS FURIOUS AND IS ASKING WHETHER "THE BLOODY SINAI AGREEMENT" IS INTENDED TO CONSTRICT EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF. SUCH EGYPTIAN REACTION WAS TO BE EXPECTED, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE THEMSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PRESENT PREDICAMENT.

5. I HAVE TOLD DATT AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO MAY FROM ONE OR OTHER QUARTER BE APPROACHED ON THIS MATTER TO BE UNDERSTANDING, BUT ALSO TO MAKE CLEAR, AS NECESSARY, THAT PRESENT DILEMMA COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF EGYPTIANS HAD CONSULTED WITH US BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM. OUR WHOLE PURPOSE IS NOT TO DEGRADE EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY, BUT TO AVOID UNNECESSARY AND UNHELPFUL PROBLEMS WHICH WILL MAKE ADMINISTRATION'S TASK OF MOVING TOWARD A MILITARY SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. ALL TOO OFTEN, OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS ARE TOO SMART FOR THEMSELVES AND THEN BECOME UPSET WHEN THEY ARE CAUGHT OUT.

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6. REQUEST DEPT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO JIDDA.
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UNQTE. KISSINGER

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